tially subsided in a short time.—In distillation, water came over very slightly affected with the sensible qualities of the plant, and not alterable by sulphate of iron.

A dissertation of merit on this plant was published a few years since by Dr. Anderson of New York, in which he gives the details of numerous and elaborate chemical trials, made by him on different parts of the plant. He concludes, among other things, from his experiments, that the active properties of the plant reside in greatest quantity in the leaves, and that its virtues are readily obtained by means of a simple decoction.

The medical powers of Eupatorium are such as its sensible properties would seem to indicate, those of a tonic stimulant. Given in moderate quantities, either in substance or in cold infusion or decoction, it promotes digestion, strengthens the viscera, and restores tone to the system. Like other vegetable bitters, if given in large quantities, especially in warm infusion or decoction, it proves emetic, sudorific, and aperient. Even in cold infusion it tends to bring on diaphoresis.

This plant has been long in use in different parts of the United States, for the same purposes for which the Peruvian bark, Gentian, Chamomile, &c. are employed. It has been found competent

to the cure of intermittent fevers by various practitioners in the middle and southern states. Dr. Anderson has detailed six cases of intermittents, quotidian, tertian, and quartan, out of a large number which had been successfully treated within his own observation by the Eupatorium both in substance and decoction. In these cases the cures were certainly expeditious, and took place at as early a period as could have been expected from arsenic or the Peruvian bark. Dr. A. cites the experience of several distinguished practitioners, particularly Dr. Hosack of New York and the late Dr. Barton of Philadelphia, in confirmation of his own, to shew that the Eupatorium is an efficacious remedy in the treatment of various febrile disorders, also of many cutaneous affections, and diseases of general debility.

I have prescribed an infusion of the Eupatorium in various instances to patients in the low stages of fever, where it has appeared instrumental in supporting the strength and promoting a moisture of the skin, without materially increasing the heat of the body. I have also found the cold infusion or decoction a serviceable tonic in loss of appetite and other symptoms of dyspepsia, as well as in general debility of the system.

JACOB BIGELOW *American Medical Botany* BOSTON, 1817-1820 CARY GRAPHIC ARTS COLLECTION, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Octavo